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In 1960s America, four young boys go on a journey to search for the body of a boy killed by a train. As they travel, they discover how cruel the world can be, but also how wondrous.

The Body Details

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Author : Stephen King , Robin A.H. Waterfield

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From Reader Review The Body for online ebook

J.C. says

I feel like I just watched an audio-only version of the film "Stand By Me". Which makes sense as this was the original story that inspired the movie. And its surprising how much the movie not only followed the original story, but captured much of its spirit. Certainly the King version is much more vulgar and up front, but the wonder of youth and the harsh reality of time is there, in the film.

I've always wanted to read this. I've always been a huge fan of the film and was always curious as to King's take on it. Much of King's material goes back to a group of kids, a pack, going through some kind of bizarre adventure. One only has to look at "It" and "Dreamcatcher" to see this. Both are very strong tales, some say his best (I've only read Dreamcatcher, FYI), and that is the same case here.

The one thing I will say that separates the tale from the film is the ending. It's much broader here, more real and more heart breaking. I won't spoil it beyond that point. But, even though I hate to see things turn out in such a fashion for those characters, it makes sense to me. I think it's logical given the theme of the story and I don't think it's harsh or cruel or out of context.

If you enjoyed the movie or enjoy King's work this is another that I highly recommend.

$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \frac{1}{2} \text{ ?}$ says

With a Little Help from My Friends by The Beatles

*What would you think if I sang out of tune
Would you stand up and walk out on me
Lend me your ears and I'll sing you a song
And I'll try not to sing out of key*

*Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm, I get high with a little help from my friends
Mm, gonna try with a little help from my friends*

*What do I do when my love is away
Does it worry you to be alone?
How do I feel by the end of the day
Are you sad because you're on your own*

*No, I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm, I get high with a little help from my friends
Mm, gonna try with a little help from my friends*

*Do you need anybody
I need somebody to love
Could it be anybody
I want somebody to love*

*Would you believe in a love at first sight
Yes, I'm certain that it happens all the time
What do you see when you turn out the light
I can't tell you but I know it's mine*

*Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm, I get high with a little help from my friends
Mm, gonna try with a little help from my friends*

*Do you need anybody
I just need someone to love
Could it be anybody
I want somebody to love*

*Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends
Mm, gonna try with a little help from my friends
Mm, I get high with a little help from my friends
Yes I get by with a little help from my friends
With a little help from my friends*

An amazing and remarkable story about friendship. what is a friendship? Friendship is like the sun above that's always shining bright, Friendship is like a golden smile that warms the coldest night, Friendship is a priceless gift of faithfulness and grace, and nothing in this world could ever take true friendships place...

The story is so sobering but touchful, u'll learn more about how to be a good friend, to be a good man for your brother even he was dead. how to be a meaningful man in short life.

Gosh, I love this short novel so much. Unforgettable characters and absolutely magnificent story. something in this book will make me read it again, and again, and again. haunts me by a warm feeling.

and... this book has made me remembered my old friend who's dead :(

Wonderful people are carefully created by God
Wonderful moments are carefully planned by God,
Wonderful friends like you are carefully gifted by God
Hundred words does not give pain.
But a true friend silence makes more tears in heart.
Make your life a house your heart can live in.
With a door that is open to receive friends.
And a garden full of memories.... of many good things
But friendship is precious,
not only in the shade,
but in the sunshine of life;
and thanks to a benevolent
arrangement of things,
the greater part of life is sunshine

Elisabeth says

5 stars

Simply amazing.

Leo . says

Well what can I say? What a great coming of age drama. King at his absolute best. When this story was made into a film Stand By Me with River Phoenix and Keifer Sutherland I thought there is no way they will make the movie as good as the book. Well I was wrong, the film is brilliant too.??

"So darling, darling, stand, by me, oooooooh! Stand, by me..."

Carol says

I really liked the movie **Stand By Me** so I knew going in to expect a great read, but what I found was so much more.

The Body is a timeless coming-of-age story. Set in late summer of 1960's Maine, four twelve-year-old buddies, all with strangely abusive and dysfunctional families, take a longer than anticipated walking trip in hopes of seeing a dead body rumored to be hit by a train. As their many harrowing adventures and touching personal stories unfold, they run into *big* trouble with some older dudes, but rein victorious.....or so they think.

In the end, the boys discover many tough, but important lessons about life, and the narrator (*unlike in the movie*) reveals how three of the lads sadly meet their untimely demise. The only downside for me is wishing I would have skipped the five plus hours of audio and opted for a good old ordinary book. 4.5 Stars.

Duane says

This early Stephen King story was adapted into the 1986 movie Stand by Me. The setting is 1960s Maine where four young teens take a walking adventure trip looking for a dead boy's body. If you grew up in the 50s and 60s, this is the kind of stuff you would do, damn the consequences. Great story telling by a master story teller.

Marie says

The straightforward, but somehow magical recount of four boys looking for a body, sounds like it should be

Sarah says

This was okay. I listened to it on audio, narrated by Frank Muller. I think this was my first time listening to him as a narrator, and I thought he was great.

The story itself was nothing special. It was very classic Stephen King, a coming of age story for four boys in Castle Rock, Maine. I was reminded a lot of IT- not because anything in the book was all that scary, but just because the boys seemed like they were doing a lot of the same things. (Walking train tracks through the woods, battling bullies, swimming, etc.) One of them is even a writer- which I believe one of the kids in IT grows up to be?

The whole thing was so similar it just struck me as odd. Sure, King reuses a lot of the same themes, (set in Maine, writers, coming of age, kids as heroes, bullies, etc.) but nothing I've ever read from him made me go-gee, haven't I heard this story before? It just seemed lazy to me.

The highlight, for me, was the stories we're given from the writer, Gordie. He has one about a man named Chico, that's autobiographical for him in a way, and I really enjoyed it. In the end, I'm not really sure what the point of The Body was. Kids go on a walk to find a body. That's pretty much it. Maybe I just couldn't relate.

I know this was originally part of a collection, so I wouldn't rule the entire collection out- I just wouldn't bother re-reading this one.

Kerri Duff says

This my second reading of The Body, and its just as powerful this time round, at times even more so because knowing how it ends changes how it reads, if that makes sense. It's strongly linked in my mind with the movie (Stand By Me), which really captured this story, I think. I picture Chris as he was portrayed by River Phoenix for example (the same goes for the rest of them). For me the movie blends perfectly with the book (in my mind at least). I think it is a story I'll return to many times, both in book and film form. It really captures something beautiful and special. A firm favourite.

Eirini Proikaki says

4.5*

Αγαπητ? Στ?βεν,

Ξ?ρω οτι σε ?χω κατηγορ?σει πολλ?ς φορ?ς για την ατελε?ωτη φλυαρ?α σου αλλ? αυτ? τη φορ? δεν θα πω τ?ποτα.Οχι επειδ? δεν φλυαρε?ς και σε αυτ? το βιβλ?ο αλλ? γιατ? με συγκ?νησες και αγ?πησα και την φλυαρ?α σου.Με ?κανες να νι?σω την αποπνικτικ? ζ?στη,να ακο?σω τα κουνο?πια να ζουζουν?ζουν στα αυτι? μου,να νι?σω τις ρ?γες του τρ?νου να δονο?νται,να δω τα σ?ννεφα της καταιγ?δας να μαζε?ονται π?νω απο το κεφ?λι μου και ,π?νω απ'ολα, με ?κανες να συμπ?σχω και να συμπον?σω αυτ? τα παιδι? που μεγ?λωναν σε τ?τοιες συνθ?κες,σε δυσλειτουργικ?ς οικογ?νειες και σε μια κοινων?α που δεν ?ταν ιδια?τερα διατεθειμ?νη να τα βοηθ?σει.

Να,αυτ? μου κ?νεις και συνεχιζω να σε διαβαζω κι ας πονοκεφαλι?ζω ?ρες ?ρες.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

The premise is simple:

“Do you guys wanna go see a dead body?”

The end product is quite possibly the best coming-of-age story ever written. **This** is what the saying “boys will be boys” is about. It’s about going on an adventure, and saying swear words when out of your parents’ earshot, and trying a cigarette just so you can say you did, and standing up to bullies, and most of all it’s about friendship. Because really?

“I never had any friends later on like the ones I had when I was twelve. Jesus, did you?”

I decided to give this one a listen after forcing it on my oldest son in order to make sure he’s actually reading when he says he is. There’s a good chance he’ll choose to be contrary simply to hurt my feelings since even the most decent teenager is still pretty horrible. The good news is I was able to pull a double-whammy and make the youngest listen too on the way to and from his baseball tournament this weekend. He arrived a little late to the party when Gordy and the boys were getting ready to meet Milo Pressman and the notorious “Chopper” and was on the edge of his seat during the train dodge. He completely blew me away when he complained as I hit strategically hit pause at a certain point in the story so we could hear it in full the next morning. And what a morning we had! A total barf-o-rama full of cackling and full-blown guffaws.

An obvious must for any Constant Reader and, as far as I’m concerned, anyone else as well. Truly an actual contender when it comes to the “like this or we can’t be friends” option. It’s that good. And the movie is one of the best book-to-screen translations in the history of filmmaking. Perfection.

Endnote: This was my third audio book and I finally found a winner. Frank Muller’s voice was just like butter. The only thing that could have been better is if it would have been Richard Dreyfus doing the narrating :)

Nataliya says

For all of those who keep insisting that Stephen King is a literary equivalent of Big Mac and fries, writing in the comfortable confines of the frequently-despised 'genre' - please take a look at *The Body: The Fall from Innocence*, which is much more familiar to public in the quite faithful adaptation by Rob Reiner - '*Stand by Me*'.

It's not King's trademark horror; it is actually free of the constraints of any so-called 'genre'. **It is a coming-of-age character-study novella set in 1960 Maine where monsters are not hiding behind bushes but instead live in the hearts of people** - the setting and themes at which King excels.

This is a story of four boys on the brink of adolescence; *the last moments of childhood told with occasional almost Bradbury-esque nostalgia but with the rose-tinted glasses mercilessly torn off*. The blue-collar childhood in a small Maine town in 1960 is not a place of magic and wonder - these boys are no strangers to abandonment and abuse and prejudice.

Hot-tempered and volatile **Teddy Duchamp** has been physically mutilated by his mentally ill father whom he still worships. Childish and not-too-bright **Vern Tessio** lives in fear of his brother. **Gordie Lachance**, whose adult writer self is telling us this story, is little but a stranger to his parents who never got over the death of his older brother. Smart and tough **Chris Chambers**, a kid from a family that supplies Castle Rock with alcoholics and juvenile delinquents, is being seriously abused by his father and is seen as a worthless and even dangerous person because of his family.

"Chris didn't talk much about his dad, but we all knew he hated him like poison. Chris was marked up every two weeks or so, bruises on his cheeks and neck or one eye swelled up and as colorful as a sunset, and once he came to school with a big clumsy bandage on the back of his head. Other times he never got to school at all. His mom would call him in sick because he was too lamed up to come in. Chris was smart, really smart, but he played truant a lot, and Mr. Halliburton, the town truant officer, was always showing up at Chris's house, driving his old black Chevrolet with the NO RIDERS sticker in the corner of the windshield. If Chris was being truant and Bertie (as we called him - always behind his back, of course) caught him, he would haul him back to school and see that Chris got detention for a week. But if Bertie found out that Chris was home because his father had beaten the shit out of him, Bertie just went away and didn't say boo to a cuckoo bird. It never occurred to me to question this set of priorities until about twenty years later."

But childhood, even though not at all sheltered, still gives them something of a shield against the world - that sense of invulnerability that only the young children have, the love for adventure, and the protection of sincere and lighthearted friendship.

"Everything was there and around us. We knew exactly who we were and exactly where we were going. It was grand."

But we meet them right at the time when they are about to leave the protection of childhood behind them, when in the miserably hot summer of 1960 they set out on a trip to find a body of a boy who disappeared in the woods - a trip that makes at least two of them go through quite significant emotional turmoil and reevaluate their priorities and see the strengthening of one friendship while the others fall apart as the realization sets in that there is more to friendship than just fun and leisure. This is a trip that uncovers both the steel and the vulnerability in the characters of Chris and Gordie, and shoves them from the haven of childhood into the world where things take work and sacrifice and pain, the world that is often cruel and cynical and unavoidable.

"But he said: "Your friends drag you down, Gordie. Don't you know that? [...] Your friends do. They're like drowning guys that are holding onto your legs. You can't save them. You can only

drown with them."

This is a scary realization when you are young - that your friends are not good for you. I remember getting that feeling at around twelve, the age the boys in this book are, and I remember how unsettling that realization was. At that time it feels like friendships are forever, and that things that connect you to other people are there to stay - and realizing how easy and even necessary it can be to break those bonds is quite unsettling.

"You always know the truth, because when you cut yourself or someone else with it, there's always a bloody show."

And some of this is present here - but on the other hand we are also treated to the strengthening of the true friendship between Gordie and Chris. **Gordie, a kid who is emotionally neglected by his family, acutely feels the sincerity and kindness that Chris brings into the world, despite his 'tough' origins** - Chris, the center of this ragtag group, is grown up beyond his years, and has some hard-earned wisdom for his twelve years of age, sprinkled with a bit of pain and bitterness but grounded in common sense.

"But it was only survival. We were clinging to each other in deep water. I've explained about Chris, I think; my reasons for clinging to him were less definable. His desire to get away from Castle Rock and out of the mill's shadow seemed to me to be my best part, and I could not just leave him to sink or swim on his own. If he had drowned, that part of me would have drowned with him, I think."

I love the narrative voice of this story - the narration by a young but accomplished writer Gordon Lachance, bringing the perspective that the few decades that have passed since that summer of 1960 have given him - but yet conveying the feelings and the attitudes of a twelve-year-old boy who feels both resentment and love and experiences profound beauty and the low of human ugliness. There are lyrical parts and trademark-King unflinching gory parts, and social commentary without the slightest sugar-coating. The story is peppered in places with the stories written by older Gordon and full of reflections of the adult man reflecting on the important and defining experience of the end of his childhood.

"The most important things are hardest to say, because words diminish them."

It is a fascinating, engrossing read, the one that is well worth several hours of your time, even if you have never been a fan of King. **5 stars and highly recommend!**
